Appl. No. 10/723,362 Amendment dated March 3, 2006 Reply to Office action of December 5, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15-21 are pending in the captioned application. Claims 17-21 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants have amended claim 15 and submit a Request for Continued Examination.

The only remaining issue is whether or not the claims are obvious in view of a combination of references. Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the current amendments to claim 15, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is now moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert the Examiner's rejections cannot be sustained and should be withdrawn. Applicants believe that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of claims 15–16.

Respectfully submitted,

GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences Corp.

Reg. No.: 53,0/3

Agent for Applicants

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with

the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O.

Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on March 3, 2006.

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